

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 04997 131555Z

ACTION SS-15

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, ENRG, PFOR, MNUC, UR,US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL NUCLEAR POWER POLICY STATEMENT: IMPLICATIONS
FOR US-USSR ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 78039, MOSCOW 4541

1. IN 13 APRIL MEETING AT SCAE, SCICOUNS INFORMED PUSTYNTSEV,
INTERNATIONAL OFFICE, THAT U.S. IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING COOPERATIVE
PROGRAMS IN ATOMIC ENERGY TO SEE WHAT EFFECTS WILL BE PRODUCED
FOLLOWING PRESIDENTIAL POLICY. SCICOUNS OFFERED THAT JUST AS
PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT DOES NOT CUT OFF DOMESTIC RESEARCH IN
FAST-BREEDER REACTORS, US-USSR FBR COOPERATION WILL CONTINUE,
ALBEIT THERE MAY BE SOME CHANGES IN EMPHASIS ON PROGRAMS.

2. SCICOUNS ASKED WHETHER SOVIETS HAD AS YET ANY REACTION TO
ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN'S 28 MARCH SUGGESTION OF POSSIBLE
NEW SUBJECTS OF COOPERATION ON THORIUM-CYCLE RESEARCH OR ON NUCLEAR
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 04997 131555Z

SPENT-FUEL HANDLING AND STORAGE. PUSTYNTSEV HAD NO "OFFICIAL
SOVIET" REACTION, BUT OBSERVED THAT SOVIETS ALREADY HAVE ACTIVE FBR
PROGRAM BASED ON PLUTONIUM CYCLE, AND THAT THORIUM CYCLE WOULD
TAKE MUCH MONEY AND OVER FIFTEEN YEARS TO DEVELOP. ON SPENT-
FUEL HANDLING AND STORAGE, PUSTYNTSEV SAID THAT PETROSYANTS
AND MOROKHOV WILL BE DISCUSSING POSSIBILITIES AND SOVIETS SHOULD
HAVE A RESPONSE READY "IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS." PUSTYNTSEV SAID THAT

MOROKHOV ALSO PLANS TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH NYE AT APRIL MEETING OF LONDON SUPPLIERS GROUP. PUSTYNTSEV EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT ESTABLISHED SOVIET POLICY IN NUCLEAR SPENT-FUEL AND WASTE STORAGE IS THAT STORAGE FACILITIES BE ASSOCIATED WITH REGIONAL REPROCESSING CENTERS.

3. COMMENT. PUSTYNTSEV'S COMMENTS COMMENTS CONVEYEVED IMPRESSION THAT SOVIETS ARE CONSIDERING POSSIBILITIES ON SPENT-FUEL STORAGE, BUT THAT THORIUM-CYCLE RESEARCH IS, IN THEIR VIEW, A NONSTARTER. THE LATTER POINT IS CONSISTENT WITH INFORMATION WE HAVE HEARD FROM OTHER SOURCES, E.G., THE FISSION-FUSION SEMINAR; SEE MOSCOW 4541.
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